

## Zander

*Sander lucioperca*

**Potential invader:  
High impact**

### Species profile

- Habitat:** Freshwater.
- Distribution in Ireland:** Not currently recorded in Ireland.
- Status:** Not yet known to occur in Ireland.
- Family name:** Percidae.
- Reproduction:** Spawning takes place between April and June, both parents protect eggs.

### Identifying features

- Length:** Average total length is 50cm.
- Weight:** Species can weigh up to 8.5kg (19lbs).
- Fins:** Front dorsal fin is hard lobed and spiked while the second dorsal fin is soft lobed with 18-22 branched rays.



Close up of Zander underwater - Shutterstock



Zander showing both dorsal fins, the front is hard lobed and spikey while the rear fin is soft lobed - Shutterstock



Zander showing its characteristic dorsal fins - Shutterstock



# Zander

**Potential invader:  
High impact**

## Threats

Species both competes and predate on juvenile or small native fish species.

May also carry disease or parasites which would have a negative impact on native biodiversity.

Can survive in a range of habitats, both deep and shallow, still and slow-flowing waters. Zander thrive in murky and eutrophic conditions and can also survive in mildly brackish waters.

Zander hunt for species by pursuit rather than ambush which may allow them to predate easily on native species which are not familiar to this form of attack/predation.

## Similar species

Pike (*Esox lucius*) has only one dorsal fin, whereas zander has two, one hard lobed and one soft lobed.



Pike have only one dorsal fin, in comparison with zander which has two - Georg Mittenecker

